

Statewide Training April 2023



Wednesday, 4/5 6:30-8pm

Supporting & Maintaining Family Connections

Michael Medeiros

This session centers on a “Shared Parenting” approach as we highlight the importance of maintaining family connections for children placed in foster care. Allowing children to feel a sense of wholeness, respecting what family represents, and building alliances with the family of origin are essential to nurturing a child’s sense of well-being. Hosted by trainer, foster and adoptive parent - Michael Medeiros.

Thursday, 4/6 7:30-9pm

Visitation (Prior and Post Dysregulation)

Stephen Bradley

It can feel confusing for caregivers to see how difficult the transition into, and out of visits with the birth family can be for foster children. These days can be much more challenging for everyone. Using the lens of the Neurosequential Model© developed by Dr. Bruce Perry, we will talk about how it makes sense that foster kids struggle so much with visits – going into them and coming out of them – and how to better support foster parents in preparing for and supporting their foster children through these important transitions. Co-facilitated with Foster Parent, Julie Stanwood.

Monday, 4/10 7:30-9pm

Building Positive Relationships

Dr. Gwen Bass, Eva Reynolds and Kelly Thibodeau

Please join us as trainers: Dr. Gwen Bass, Kelly Thibodeau and Eva Reynolds continue their training series with us. All educators, foster and/or adoptive parents themselves, these trainers provide detailed relevant information rooted in their own experiences. When kids experience trauma and disrupted attachments they often have unique needs when it comes to developing new bonds. This session describes the impact of trauma and introduces strategies caregivers can use to connect with children.

Tuesday, 4/11 7:30-9pm

The “Honeymoon Period”

Stephen Bradley

This session will focus on what is often referred to as a “Honeymoon Period” when foster children first come into their placements. This period of time can feel confusing for foster parents because often the child will act like “things are going well” for a period of time, only to start having more problems after a while. It can be difficult to understand why this happens. Using the lens of the Neurosequential Model© developed by Dr. Bruce Perry, we will talk about this period as a “response to stress” and support foster parents in better understanding this important transitional time in the beginning of placement. Co-facilitated with Foster Parent, Wendy Provost.

Wednesday, 4/12 7:30-9pm

What to Expect From the Child's Attorney, Part 2

CPCS

Is the child in your care capable of articulating and weighing the pros/cons of their wishes? Join us for part two of our caregiver trainer series for an in depth discussion of the difference between client directed representation and substantiated judgment. CPCS is the Committee for Public Counsel Services, which is located in the Massachusetts Public Defenders Office. CPCS consists of both staff attorneys and private panel attorneys appointed by the Court.

Thursday, 4/13 7:30-9pm

Reaching the Seemingly Unreachable: Not My Opposition

Jeanine Fitzgerald

As children explore the world around them, nearly all will test boundaries and challenge authority. While most become more cooperative by the end of the third year of life, some continually defy any attempt to discipline them and seemingly reject authority all together. This session provides insight into children who struggle for power and the approaches that help them get unstuck so they listen and respect.

Thursday, 4/18 7:30-9pm

Supporting Academics and Family Engagement in Schools

Ruth Bodian

Is homework time in your house filled with tears, outbursts, and/or power struggles? We'll discuss the underlying causes for those behaviors and ways you can support academics with less conflict. We will also address considerations for family engagement in schools and touch on advocacy and information sharing.

Thursday, 4/20 7:30-9pm

Developmental age vs. Chronological Age

Stephen Bradley

Foster children often come into the care of DCF as a result of not getting important developmental needs met. Using the lens of the Neurosequential Model© developed by Dr. Bruce Perry, this session will talk about early brain development and the impact of developmental trauma on a number of areas of functioning that foster kids do struggle with (including self regulation, relational skills, academic performance etc). It’s important to recognize that these difficulties often result in a “gap” between the child’s age and their actual abilities in these areas. We will talk about how to recognize, support and decrease frustration for foster parents and educators around these challenges. Co-facilitated with Foster Parent, Erica Olbrych.

Monday, 4/24 7:30-9pm

Home Routines

Dr. Gwen Bass, Eva Reynolds and Kelly Thibodeau

Please join us as trainers: Dr. Gwen Bass, Kelly Thibodeau and Eva Reynolds continue their training series with us. All educators, foster and/or adoptive parents themselves, these trainers provide detailed relevant information rooted in their own experiences. When children know what to expect and experience consistent routines it can help them feel safe and stay regulated—the same is often true for their caregivers. In this session, participants reflect on the goals they have for their children and learn how they can integrate supportive routines to help children develop positive self-esteem.

Tuesday, 4/25 7:30-8:30pm

Celebrating LGBTQ+ Identities with Your Child

GBPFLAG

This session is centered around the joy one feels after coming out and transitioning. Often people can feel bogged down in the idea of being LGBTQ+ as a challenge, but here we will focus on what the other side of this looks like. We will highlight how caregivers can connect with their LBGT+ children using media and culture to foster a deeper connection. Current LGBTQ+ figures will be highlighted and recommendations for books, movies and music will be shared.

[Register For Training](#)

All trainings are open to parents across Massachusetts and are provided *FREE* of charge.